The Late Great Chuck Berry

By VennerRoad, 6th Nov 2017

Earlier this year, the world of music was looking forward to celebrating the 91st birthday of Chuck Berry last month.

Sadly, Berry died March 18 literally days before the release of his first album for thirty-eight years. October also saw the deaths of two more music greats: Tom Petty and then Fats Domino. Domino was slightly younger than Berry, although he broke through first. Petty, the youngster at 66, but still too young to die, was inspired by Elvis, but they both owed much to Berry as to do future generations of rock musicians.

Chuck Berry performing in later life.

Unsurprisingly, his family is continuing to maintain his website, and although he has been the subject of more than one documentary, there will surely be a biopic or something just as comprehensive at some point. The following in alphabetic order of sorts is a very partial list of some of the artists and bands who have covered or recorded Chuck Berry songs:

The Beatles – *Come On*; *Memphis, Tennessee*; *Rock And Roll Music*; *Roll Over Beethoven*; *Sweet Little Sixteen*; *Too Much Monkey Business*
David Bowie – *Around And Around* (as *Round And Round*)
John Denver – *Johnny B. Goode*
Electric Light Orchestra – *Roll Over Beethoven*
Rory Gallagher – *Nadine (Is It You?)*
Johnny Hallyday – *Maybellene*
Emmylou Harris – *You Never Can Tell*
Jimi Hendrix – *Johnny B. Goode*
Buddy Holly – *Brown Eyed Handsome Man*
Judas Priest – *Johnny B. Goode*
Paul McCartney – *Brown Eyed Handsome Man*
Frank Marino & Mahogany Rush – *Johnny B. Goode*
Mountain – *Roll Over Beethoven*
Ted Nugent (with Les Paul) – *Johnny B. Goode*
Roy Orbison – *Memphis, Tennessee*
Gerry And The Pacemakers – *Maybellene*
Carl Perkins – *Brown Eyed Handsome Man*
Tom Petty (with The Heartbreakers) – *Carol*; *Jaguar And Thunderbird*
Elvis Presley – *Maybellene*
Johnny Rivers – *Brown Eyed Handsome Man*; *Memphis, Tennessee* (as *Memphis*)
The Rolling Stones – *Carol*; *Come On* (their debut single)
Bruce Springsteen – *You Never Can Tell*
Status Quo – *You Never Can Tell*
Vince Taylor – *Memphis, Tennessee*
George Thorogood & The Destroyers – *No Particular Place To Go*
The Troggs – *Jaguar And Thunderbird*
Johnny Winter – *Johnny B. Goode*

This is only part of the story though. Roger Glover of Deep Purple/Rainbow fame said the first album he ever bought was Berry's debut, *After School Session*, and his influence extends far beyond rock 'n' roll, hard rock, heavy metal, Country & Western, folk...

In spite of the huge gap between his penultimate and final albums, Chuck Berry continued to perform live until fairly recently, and you will find much footage of him in both early and later life on YouTube, the video hub of the world.